



June 2006

AWIN Monthly Newsletter

Send us your story

Do you have a story you would like to share with other end users? Any advice you want to pass along to agencies that are awaiting a cutover in their area? We want to know how AWIN is working for you! Please send your comments to awin@arkansas.gov.

AWIN Support

In partnership with the Arkansas State Police, the Department of Information Systems (DIS) operates the AWIN Call Center to support all AWIN subscribers (radio users) with technical assistance or AWIN-related requests. Technicians are on call in the event of any emergency. Call (501) 682-HELP (682-4357) or toll-free (800) 435-7989 or e-mail:

awin.support@arkansas.gov

Command and Control radio deployment and coverage testing

At this time, around 80% of Arkansas counties have Command and Control radios distributed. The remaining 20% are in the process of having radios programmed or are waiting on distribution. About 10% of counties have kicked off radio coverage testing. It is expected that as the installation and distribution processes wrap up, more counties will begin testing.

Coverage testing is designed to test coverage provided by the AWIN System, and to demonstrate and document where voice communications are and are not available. The information gathered will be used when planning for added capacity and coverage.

AWIN program management has previously asked for assistance from county representatives with coverage testing. Representatives were asked to include all locations within the county that are essential to an agency's daily operations during the testing process. "This is a great opportunity for counties to get involved in the future of AWIN," said AWIN Program Manager Penny Rubow. "By identifying areas where coverage is less than adequate, counties will be providing the information we

need to determine where it makes the most sense to add equipment."

AWIN program management suggested that county 911 maps be distributed to all testing volunteers, and by using the maps specific areas to be tested can be identified. They also requested that the testers circle the areas on the map where voice communication is not available, which will help in identifying areas for future expansion of the system.

When coverage testing in the county is complete, county representatives have been asked to send the marked map and any additional information of importance to:

AWIN Program Management

Josh Smith

Project Enterprise Program

Management Office (PEPMO)

Department of Information Systems

One Capitol Mall

Little Rock, AR 72203

For questions, you can reach Josh Smith at josh.smith@arkansas.gov or 501-682-4021 or Penny Rubow at Penny.rubow@arkansas.gov or 501-682-5358.

Preparing for '07 legislative session

The AWIN Steering Committee has begun discussions on legislation they would like to see passed in the upcoming legislative session. The committee is working with staff at the Department of Information Systems (DIS) to draft the legislation. The committee is also formalizing the governance structure of the AWIN project, which includes the Steering

Committee and the Local Leadership Council, as well as designating DIS as the managing entity of the radio system.

If you have any comments or suggestions about possible legislation, please contact AWIN program management. The Steering Committee will meet July 12th for an initial review of the legislation.

New towers raised for Three County Pilot Project

A number of officials, as well as local media, attended a press event in Craighead county this week. The event held during the tower erection at the Lake City site featured comments by County Judge Dale Haas, County ADEM Coordinator Jack Richardson, and AWIN Program Manager Dale Saffold.

New towers in Craighead and Miller County were erected on Monday, which completes the installation of new towers for the Tri-County Pilot Project. Each

tower will now be fitted with Radio Frequency (RF) and Microwave transmission equipment. Preparations for dispatch center installations are underway in both Craighead and Miller county.

The new Lonoke county site is expected to be added to the AWIN system by the end of this month. The installation of dispatch equipment is near completion in Lonoke County, and subscriber installation is in progress in all three counties.

Jefferson County on AWIN

Operator control units used in the 911 Center of the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Association (MECA) were recently converted to the AWIN system. The transition was a successful one. The conversion of the MECA center allows the primary counties in the CSEPP area, including Jefferson and Grant counties, to operate with the AWIN system as the primary radio system. Follow-up work has been sched-

uled to complete the final details of the conversion. As a result of detailed planning and technical work, the MECA center is successfully operating on the

AWIN radio system.



ADEM partnering in training



The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) conducted a Command and Control radio training session this month. The training was conducted in Conway and was open to all Command and Control personnel in the Central Arkansas area. About 30 users attended the two-hour training session, which covered

the use of radios and interoperability talkgroups. Planning for additional training sessions for each of the other ADEM regions throughout the state is underway. The target date for the next session is in August. Notifications will be distributed when more training opportunities are established.



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